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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0246
INFO RUEHWH/WESTERN HEMISPHERIC AFFAIRS DIPL POSTS IMMEDIATE
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RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RUEIDN/DNI WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RUEHLMC/MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORP WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE 1134
RHEHAAA/NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUMIAAA/USOUTHCOM MIAMI FL IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 TEGUCIGALPA 000648

SIPDIS

STATE FOR WHA/CEN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/23/2019

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [ASEC](#) [CASC](#) [KDEM](#) [MARR](#) [AEMR](#) [PINR](#)

HO

SUBJECT: TFHO1: HONDURAS COUP SITREP #28 07/24/2009 AS OF
10:30 LOCAL (12:30 EDT)

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 638 AND OTHERS

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Classified By: Ambassador Hugo Llorens, E.O. 12958, reasons 1.4 (b and d)

DEMONSTRATIONS AND OTHER ACTIVITY

11. (SBU) Early Friday morning, July 24, due to the rumored arrival of President Zelaya, pro-Zelaya supporters gathered around the off-ramp to Danli on Tegucigalpa's peripheral highway with plans to caravan to the Las Manos border crossing with Nicaragua. As of 09:30 local (11:30 EDT), police and military reportedly put up a security fence and closed the Las Manos border crossing. They set up four checkpoints from the city of El Paraiso to the border, where approximately 100 pro-Zelaya supporters stayed the night. The Armed Forces took control of the customs facility at Las Manos as well.

12. (U) A large pro-Micheletti demonstration is expected today in San Pedro Sula.

13. (U) There continue to be several roadblocks throughout the country today, July 24. As of 09:30 local (11:30 EDT), Pro-Zelaya roadblocks disrupted traffic in Santa Barbara, La Ceiba, and along the highway to Puerto Cortes. In addition, pro-Zelaya supporters blocked the CA-5, Honduras's principal highway, south of the Soto Cano airbase in Comayagua.

14. (U) Late Thursday afternoon, July 23 the de facto government announced that the evening's curfew would be in place from 18:00-06:00 local (20:00-08:00 EDT) for areas along the Nicaraguan border and 00:00-04:30 local (02:00-6:30 EDT) for the rest of the country. Last night, 72 people were detained for violating curfew. The curfew remains in effect and is expected to cover the same hours tonight. The Embassy Warden Message urges AmCits to

consult television and radio announcements each night to determine the correct curfew hours.

Infrastructure and Communications

15. (U) Toncontin International Airport in Tegucigalpa remains open and has been operating since Tuesday afternoon, July 7. American, Continental and Delta flights continue operating as normal. San Pedro Sula airport remains open for international flights, and American, Continental and Delta Airlines continue to operate flights as usual to and from that destination.

16. (U) Apart from the closure of the Las Manos border crossing detailed above, all other borders remain open and operating as normal.

17. (U) There are no reports of abnormal public utility outages in the country.

Consular and Embassy Operations

18. (U) The Embassy is open for normal business on Friday, July 24. Barring any changes in the security situation, the Consular Section is open for regular consular services until further notice.

19. (U) The Consular Section continues to receive sporadic inquiries from AmCits regarding the political situation. Post will circulate an additional Warden Message Friday

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afternoon, July 24 reminding AmCits to remain alert. The Consular Section continues to regularly update ACS information on the Embassy website.

110. (SBU) The EAC met Thursday, July 23 at 14:30 local (16:30 EDT) and determined that Post will maintain its current security posture through the weekend. The next EAC meeting is TBD.

LLORENS